

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Before replacement of constituent parts of an image density sensor or of other image forming units, the image density of a formed test toner patch image is detected by the image density sensor and conditions for image formation are controlled. After replacement of the constituent parts, the image density sensor detects the image density of a test toner patch image which is formed based on the controlled conditions for image formation. The optical output and/or the optical sensitivity is adjusted so that a detected value becomes a predetermined reference value, to calibrate the image density sensor. With this image formation controlling method, the image density sensor can be calibrated easily and precisely, the image density of a toner pattern image can be held proper and a stable high-quality image can be obtained.